suggestions received from various quarters including Chambers of Commerce are taken into consideration.

Trade between India and Nepal

473. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Nepal trade ties have since been normalised;

(b if so, whether all the trade and transit disputes between India and Nepal have been finally resolved;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has also resumed supply of essential items like petrol to Nepal; and

(d) if so, to what extent the trade ties between the two countries have been normalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (d) Trade and Transit relations between India and Nepal have been restored to *status quo ante* as on April, 1987. There is no trade and transit dispute between the two countries. India has resumed supply of essential items including petrol to Nepal as before. The trade relations between the two countries are very good.

Policy changes pertaining to 100 per cent Export Oriented Units

474. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of policy changes are being considered for the 100 percent export oriented units;

(b) whether one of the main changes is the introduction of permanent concession; and

(c) if so, what are the other changes that are likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The detials of the policy changes are still being worked out.

Development of tourist spots to attract foreign tourists

475. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop some other tourist spots in the country to attract foreign tourists due to the disturbed conditions in Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, which is a continuous process. In order to strengthen tourism infrastruncture, the Government has taken up schemes for providing financial support to State Governments for creating tourism facilities at selected tourist centres in the country

Construction of new hotels for low budget tourists by ITDC

476. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC proposes to construct new hotels for low budget tourists in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b) ITDC's Annual Plan for 1990-91 includes a lumpsum provision of Rs. 400 lakhs for new schemes, including low budget hotels. The location of these hotels has not been identified so far. This will depend upon availability of suitable site and economic viability of the project.

Japanese participation in modernisation of IISCO

477. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state what progress has been made in the talks with the Japanese Government regarding the participation of Japanese agencies for modernising IISCO, Burnpur?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): The Japanese Consulting Companies had projected very high capital costs for IISCO modernisation and a very low return. Government feel that a more cost effective strategy should be adopted for the project with fuller international competition. Government would like qualified Japanese and other firms to come forward to participate and bid for the foreign packages when pre-qualification offers are sought and tenders floated. Process for obtaining necessary approval for the strategy is in advanced stage of progress.

Taking over of 15 closed Jute Mills in West Bengal by Central Government

478. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government to take over the 15 closed jute mills in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details of these 15 mills and the number of workers who have been rendered unemployed; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) From time to time Govt. of West Bengal have been taking up with the Central Government the question of takeover/ nationalisation of many of the jute mills lying closed in the State. Even on 7th July, 1990 request to this effect was made by the Labour Minister of West Bengal when the Union Textile Minister had visited Calcutta. However, the Central Govt. are not in favour of takeover/ nationalisation of any of the jute mills as this would only add to the financial burden of the Central Government. Having regard to the importance of jute economy for the Eastern Region of our country Government have initiated a number of measures for modernisation/ diversification of jute industry.

Kerala High Court directive for amending Christian Divorce Law

479. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala High Court has directed the Central